

# Southern Plains Drought Outlook Summary

Thursday, August 15th, 2013

Issued: 1200 CDT



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National Weather Service  
*Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
Fort Worth, TX*



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## Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma** Only 13% of state in extreme drought. Down from 95% on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- New Mexico** Wet start to monsoon results in continued improvements with 20% of state in exceptional drought as compared to 45% in May.
- Texas** Little overall change to amount of state in drought. Improvements to some of the more significant and long term drought have occurred in the Panhandle.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

August 13, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

### Oklahoma

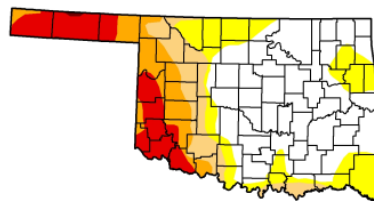
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	49.40	50.60	32.98	22.62	12.57	0.19	
Last Week (08/06/2013 map)	45.72	54.28	37.94	32.04	21.91	4.47	
3 Months Ago (05/14/2013 map)	17.40	82.60	67.93	52.78	32.60	9.53	
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.89	37.06	
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.98	95.33	42.09	
One Year Ago (08/07/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	96.78	16.03	

#### Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Drought - Extreme
D1 Drought - Moderate	D4 Drought - Exceptional
D2 Drought - Severe	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



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## Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico:** 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 4% of capacity, its lowest since the early 1970s, resulting in one of the shortest irrigation seasons on record.
- Texas:** Statewide reservoir capacity continues to set new modern day lows for this time of year, currently at 62%, which is 9 percentage points less than this time last year.
- Rio Grande:** Upstream rains have resulted in some improvement in Lake Amistad. Downstream, little change to Falcon Reservoir, which remains at 21% of capacity.
- Oklahoma:** Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 14% of capacity.

For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:

<http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home>

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### New Mexico

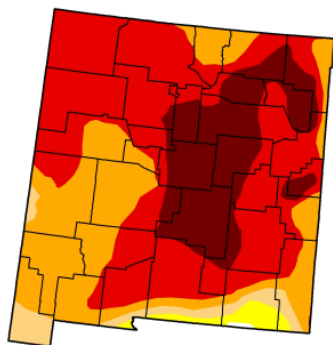
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	0.14	99.86	97.77	93.40	66.46	19.80	
Last Week (08/06/2013 map)	0.14	99.86	98.65	93.61	68.84	20.60	
3 Months Ago (05/14/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	99.04	97.63	81.68	44.14	
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	98.83	94.05	31.88	0.97	
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	62.56	12.25	0.66	
One Year Ago (08/07/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	99.93	80.24	25.74	0.00	

#### Intensity:

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### Texas

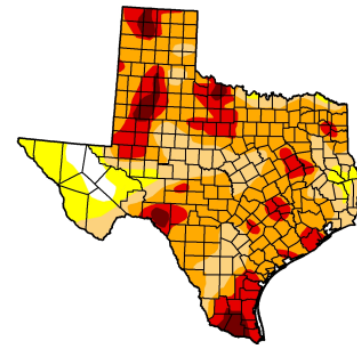
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	
Current	2.82	97.18	87.90	65.92	20.64	3.84	
Last Week (08/06/2013 map)	1.72	98.28	88.38	67.69	25.80	6.24	
3 Months Ago (05/14/2013 map)	2.84	97.16	90.55	68.71	36.09	12.05	
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96	
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18	
One Year Ago (08/07/2012 map)	11.39	88.61	75.21	39.96	10.86	0.75	

#### Intensity:

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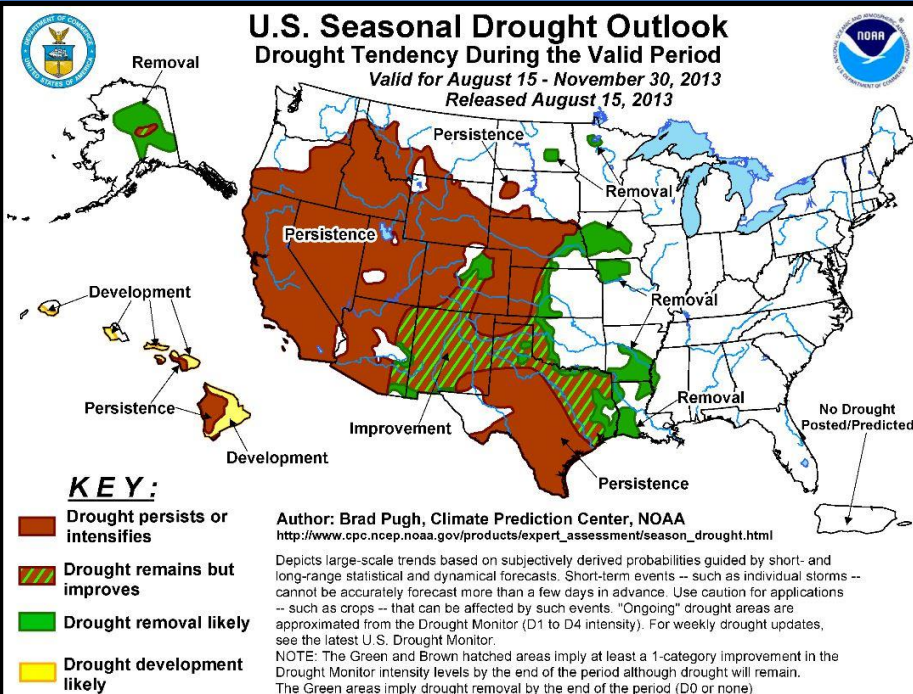
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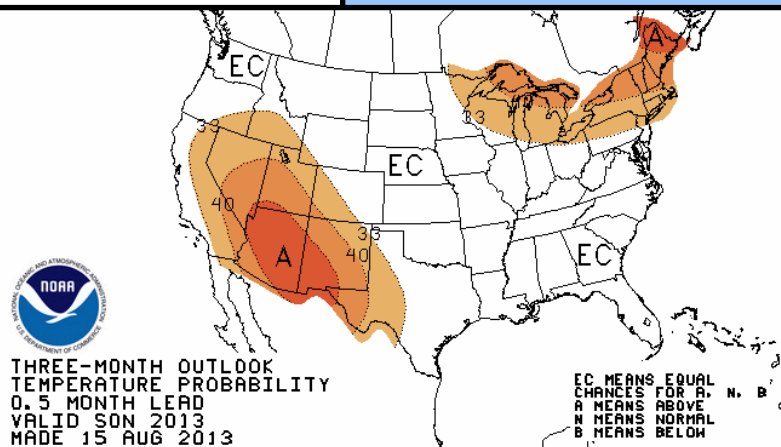
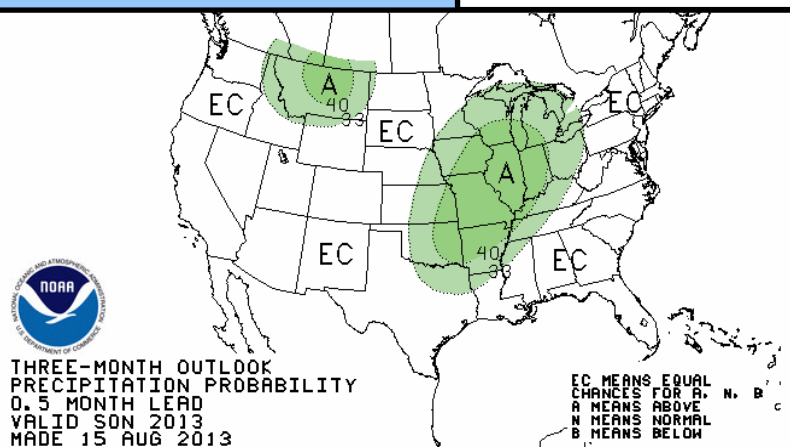
## 3-month Outlook Precipitation

- Increased chances for Above Normal Precipitation expected for nearly all of OK and northeast TX.
- September and October are each the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest months of the year in Oklahoma.
- Generally, improvement in drought conditions should continue across most of OK and NM with drought persisting or intensifying across TX, except for the eastern quarter.



## 3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for Above Normal Temperatures for all of NM and far west TX.
- Highest confidence of this is in southwest NM.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures ... further exacerbating surface reservoir water levels.



## Southern Plains Drought Summary

- Long term models show continued elevated chances for above normal precipitation across much of Oklahoma. Most of the rest of the region is forecast to have equal chances for near normal, above normal, or below normal precipitation.
- Drought forecast to persist across south, central, and west Texas. Drought conditions forecast to improve across nearly all of NM, OK, and eastern TX.

**This information along with other drought  
resources also available on the  
Southern Plains drought.gov web portal  
[http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-  
programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home](http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home)**



**Information provided by:  
National Weather Service  
Southern Region Headquarters  
Regional Operations Center  
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